

CAPT MARK DARDIS, Ed.D, D.P.T, ECS, CHT, CWS, DABDA
CAPTAIN, USPHS

CAPT MARK W. DARDIS retired this May 2010, after 25 years of dedicated service in the United States Public Health Service spanning from September 23, 1984 to May 01, 2010. CAPT Dardis is currently the Chief of Physical Therapy at Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC), the largest IHS hospital.

CAPT Dardis was called to active duty on September 23, 1984, reporting to Shiprock Northern Navajo Medical Center and serving in the lead Deputy Chief of Physical Therapy. Doctor Dardis chose to spend his entire career in the clinical setting providing service to underserved communities and populations. He has provided physical therapy intervention to untold thousands of patients and their families. In addition, he has shared his advanced evaluative and treatment skills with other IHS therapists, thus spreading the influence of his skills to many other underserved patients.

At Shiprock Service Unit, CAPT Dardis initiated a unique biomechanical foot assessment clinic that fabricated custom orthotics for Native American patients to prevent diabetic related foot problems. He obtained a \$10,000 grant for diabetic education programs with the goal of lowering the incidence of amputations among Native Americans. He further collaborated with the University of Michigan in the development of a bilingual audio/visual diabetic foot care education program for use within the IHS.

At Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC), CAPT Dardis served as Deputy Chief from 1990 to 1993 and then as Department Chief from 1993 to present. For over 19 years, he has successfully prepared the Physical Therapy Department and his staff to pass with superior ratings more than six Joint Commission reviews without any exceptions in Elements of Performance, Accreditation Participation Requirements, or the National Patient Safety Goals. The PIMC Physical Therapy Department is one of few departments that can boast this accomplishment in the IHS.

CAPT Dardis served on the TPAC for two terms totaling 6 years. Much of his work stands firm today as standard operating procedure for the Therapist Category. Dr. Dardis was appointed as Chair of the PIMC Rehabilitation Committee that developed a pediatric handicapped and amputee registry for research and grant purposes. He served on the PIMC Safety Committee that developed hospital wide policies and procedures that were implemented for more than 750 employees. These policies ensured a safe work environment for all employees and prevented work place lifting injury. CAPT Dardis served on the PIMC Medical Executive Committee representing Rehabilitative Services. He served as Executive Secretary during this time and assisted in the oversight of all patient care services at PIMC.

One of CAPT Dardis' significant achievements was his appointment as the IHS Phoenix Area Rehabilitation Services Consultant from 1996 to 2003. His oversight and direction permitted the opening of three physical therapy clinics. This stands as the largest expansion of physical therapy services in the Phoenix Area. As these clinics opened, CAPT Dardis developed and implemented additional Area wide specialty care programs not previously available, including Post Breast Cancer Rehabilitation, Pain Management, Hand Therapy, Wound Care, Bariatric Care, and others. These programs continue to enhance IHS Rehabilitative Services and the lives of the patients they benefit.

CAPT Dardis served as Adjunct Faculty for AT Still University Physical Therapy Program and the Gateway Community College Physical Therapy Assistant Program. He is published in professional journals and periodicals. Throughout his career, CAPT Dardis has exemplified the benefits of career life learning for the betterment of the Commissioned Corps.

CAPT Dardis's dedication over the past 25 years will be greatly missed. The Therapist Category wishes to thank CAPT Mark Dardis for his many efforts and accomplishments in improving therapy services for Native Americans in Arizona and New Mexico. We wish him well in his retirement and with his future.